

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source having semiconductor laser diodes and coupling lenses arranged in a main scan direction, the semiconductor laser diodes being positioned so that light beams emitted by the semiconductor laser diodes substantially cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a polygonal mirror; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the polygonal mirror to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the polygonal mirror; and

the spot size of the light beams incident to the polygonal mirror is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least the main scan direction.

Claim 3 (Original): The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein each of the reflection surfaces of the polygonal mirror has an edge shorter than surfaces of the polygonal mirror in which the reflection surfaces are formed.

Claim 4-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is incorporated into deflection surfaces of said deflection unit to shape the light beams to have a given spot size before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images, and the given spot size of the light beams is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces,

wherein the light beams emitted by the light source cross each other at a position close to the deflection unit.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

an aperture situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, wherein said aperture is incorporated into deflection surfaces of said deflection unit to shape the light beams to have a given spot size before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the

images, and the given spot size of the light beams is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

Claim 16 (Original): The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the deflection surfaces of the deflection unit has an edge shorter than surfaces of the deflection unit in which the deflection surfaces are formed.

Claim 17 (Original): The multibeam scan apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein each of the deflection surfaces of the deflection unit has an edge shorter than surfaces of the deflection unit in which the deflection surfaces are formed.

Claim 18-33 (Cancelled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A multibeam scan apparatus, comprising:
a deflection unit having deflection surfaces for deflecting light; and
a light source that emits light beams in such directions that the light beams having a spot size larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A multibeam scan apparatus, comprising:
a deflection unit having deflection surfaces for deflecting light;
a light source that emits light beams in such directions that the light beams cross each other on at least one of the deflection surfaces; and
a restricting unit provided on each of the deflection surfaces that shapes the light beams to achieve a desired spot size.

Claim 36 (New): A multibeam scan apparatus, comprising:

a light source emitting beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a polygonal mirror; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the polygonal mirror to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the polygonal mirror; and

the spot size of the light beams incident to the polygonal mirror is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least one direction.